



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 24, 2017 at 12:30 p.m.

By

Rachel Novotny, Interim Dean

And

J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 481 HD1 – RELATING INVASIVE SPECIES

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 481 HD1, which asks the Department of Agriculture to establish a pilot pesticide treatment coupon project and a little fire ant site map for the county of Hawai'i, requires a report to the Legislature on project implementation, and appropriates funds for these purposes.

With training on pesticide safety and effective control techniques, involvement of the public in efforts to control invasive species, given the limited resources available to government agencies, is a potentially useful approach, and the pilot project could create a model for management of other persistent invasive species in the state.

We defer to the Department of Agriculture on fiscal and management implications of HB 481, but we support the intent of the bill to involve the public in efforts to control invasive pests. We suggest that appropriate funding and resources for public education in safe and effective pest control techniques be included in the pilot project.